

June 9, 2000

FACT SHEET

Elderly

POPULATION DESCRIPTION

- In 1998, persons 65 years and over represented 12.7% of the nation's population- a total of 34.4 million people.
- There were 20.2 million older women and 14.2 older men - a sex ratio of 143 women for every 100 men. This ratio increases as the population ages. For persons over the age of 85, there were 241 women for every 118 men.
- The elderly population is often divided into three segments: the "young old (65-74)", "middle old (75-84)" and the "old old (85+)." All three segments are growing rapidly. In 1998, the 65-74 age group (18.4 million) was eight times larger than in 1990 and the 75-84 group (12.0 million) was 16 times larger. The fastest growing segment is the 85+ group (40 million), which was 33 times larger than in 1990.¹
- The U.S. Bureau of Census reports that in Arizona there were 617,538 persons aged 65 and older in 1998. Older people make-up 13.2% of Arizona's total population; a 28.5 % increase between 1990 and 1998. Arizona ranks 18th nationally in those age 65 and older.

AGE WAVE

- During the 20th century, the number of Americans 65 and over increased elevenfold, from 3 million to 33 million.
- The United States Census Bureau projections indicate that by 2035, 70 million people, of whom 60 million will be elder boomers, will be age 65 and older. This number is more than twice the current population of Canada. The global projections of this age wave indicate that by 2050, there will be nearly two billion people in the world 60 years and older - a number equal to the current combined populations of North America, Europe, and India.²
- The population explosion will occur between 2010 and 2030. People 65+ are expected to jump from representing 13% of the population in 2000 to 20% in 2030.

¹Profile of Older Americans, 1999. AARP and AoA., p. 1.

²Ibid., p. 3.

- In Arizona, there are approximately 1 million people age 55 and older - roughly 20% of the state's entire population. And according to U.S. Census Bureau projections, the senior segment of Arizona's citizenry - along with that of seven other states - is expected to double by 2020.

- Maricopa County Population Projections - by Age Group

	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95+	Total
1995									2,551,765
2000	105,454	100,094	97,305	81,347	53,547	29,318	13,767	5,053	2,954,157
2005	133,741	112,453	104,685	91,387	65,701	36,581	17,033	7,202	3,329,561
2010	174,980	138,560	114,530	97,722	74,186	44,580	21,240	8,998	3,709,566
2015	226,078	179,794	138,415	105,384	79,066	50,610	25,788	11,285	4,101,784
2020	270,597	233,351	178,711	126,134	84,636	53,919	29,492	13,736	4,516,090
2025	310,562	278,754	232,911	162,585	100,901	57,496	31,501	15,908	4,948,423
2030	325,475	320,705	277,836	212,762	130,122	68,451	33,561	17,171	5,390,785
2035	309,894	335,799	320,225	253,802	171,054	88,460	40,014	18,334	5,839,201
2040	306,421	318,896	335,020	293,114	204,216	116,938	51,928	21,761	6,296,219
2045	329,130	315,029	317,868	306,720	236,309	139,933	69,163	28,235	6,768,117
2050	375,509	338,118	313,636	291,266	247,412	162,482	83,137	37,802	7,254,731

Year	% > 60	% > 65
1995	16.1%	12.6%
2000	16.4%	12.9%
2005	17.1%	13.1%
2010	18.2%	13.5%
2015	19.9%	14.4%
2020	21.9%	15.9%
2025	24.1%	17.8%
2030	25.7%	19.7%
2035	26.3%	21.0%
2040	26.2%	21.3%
2045	25.7%	20.9%
2050	25.5%	20.3%

RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION

- Minority populations are projected to represent 25% of the elderly population in 2030, up from 16% in 1998. The rates of increase by minority population are: Hispanic - 341% increase; non Hispanic African Americans - 130% increase; American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts - 150% increase; and Asians and Pacific Islanders will increase by 323%.³
- In 1998, 15.7% of persons 65+ were minorities — 8% were African-Americans, 2.1 were Asian or Pacific Islanders, and less than 1% were American Indian or Native Alaskan. Hispanic elderly represented 5.1% of the population.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Employment

- About 3.7 million older Americans (12%) were in the labor force or actively seeking work in 1998. This included 2.2 million men (16%) and 1.6 million women (8%).
- Overall, older people comprised 2.8% of the U.S. labor force. Many of these individuals were working in part-time jobs without benefits. About 23% of older workers in 1998 were self-employed, compared to 7% of younger workers.
- Analysis of retirement trends reveal that more workers are retiring early between the ages of 55-59, and often return to some type of part-time work at a later date. Currently more than two thirds of workers retire before age 65.
- Of the men ages 65-69 who do return to work after retirement, 28% were in the labor force in 1990, as compared to 60% in 1950.
- For men between the ages 80-84, 6% were in the labor force in 1990 and 3% of men over the age of 85. The most common reasons for returning to the workforce were improved health, longer life expectancies, unplanned or forced retirement, loss of health insurance coverage, and diminished retirement income because of inflation. For men who are forced from a job between the ages of 55-64, they are less likely to secure another job at a comparable wage level.

Income

- For all older persons reporting income in 1998, 36% reported less than \$10,000. Only 22% reported \$25,000 or more. The median income was \$13,768. The median income of older men was \$18,166 \$10,054 for women.
- The Administration on Aging reports that since 1997, real median income grew slightly more for women (+2.8%) than for men (+0.7%). Households containing families headed by person 65+ reported a median income in 1998 of \$31,568. The breakdown of household median income by racial and ethnic groups were: \$32,398 for whites, \$22,102 for African-Americans, and \$21,935 for Hispanics.

³Profile of Older Americans: 1999, Administration on Aging and AARP, p. 2.

- The median net worth of for elderly persons was \$86,300, which was well above the national average of \$37,600 in 1993. For 16% of the older population, net worth was below \$10,000 and above \$250,000 for 17%. The aggregate net worth of older adults is staggering: Adults 50+ currently earn almost \$2 trillion in annual income, own more than 70% of the financial assets in America, and represent 50% of all discretionary spending power.
- Arizonan's 55 and older currently spend \$16.8 billion a year throughout our economy.
- The economic status of elderly persons has improved dramatically in the past 25 years. The implementation of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security combined with the accumulation of savings and stock market investments has contributed to driving the official poverty rate for those age 65 and over from 35% in the early 1960s to an all-time low of 10.5% today.⁴
- The average 65+ couple today receives approximately \$22,000 each year from Social Security and another \$12,000 of yearly value from Medicare. In 1996, approximately 91% of elderly persons received Social Security income from assets (63%), public and private pensions (43%), earnings (21%) and public assistance (6%).

Poverty

- The Administration on Aging reports that nationally approximately 3.4 million or 10.5% elderly persons were living in poverty in 1998. Another 2.1 million or 6.3% of the elderly were classified as "near poor" (income between poverty level and 125% of this level).
- The poverty rates for women and racial/ethnic minorities were higher: elderly whites - 8.9%, African-Americans - 26.4%, and Hispanics - 21.0%. Older women had a poverty rate of 12.8% compared to 7.2% of older men. Those suffering from the highest poverty remain to be older African American women who are living alone. Nearly one half (49.3%) of these women were poor in 1998.⁵
- In 1995, the Maricopa County Special Census data revealed that approximately 6.49% of households headed by a person age 60 or over was below the federal poverty level. In Maricopa County, a total of 15,664 of 241,233 elderly households had incomes in this level.

FAMILY STATUS & LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

- Elderly women are more likely to live alone than are elderly men. This is especially true among women aged 85 and over, where three of every five women live alone.
- Currently 7.6 million elderly women live alone, compared to 2.3 million men. Given these differences in living arrangements, it is not surprising that older men were much more likely to

⁴Age Power, p. 18.

⁵Profile of Older Americans: 1999, Administration on Aging and AARP, p. 10.

be married than older women in 1998 - with 75% of men and 43% of women. Although divorced older persons represented 7% of all older persons in 1998, their numbers (2.1 million) have increased five times as fast as the older population as a whole since 1990.⁶

HEALTH STATUS

- In the last century, advances in treating infectious diseases have increased life expectancy by 29 years. Unfortunately, these advances have not contributed to *healthy aging*. Today, the average adult will spend more than 10% of his or her life in a morbid or ill state, compared to 1% one century ago.⁷
- According to the Health Care Financing Administration, 80% of the 65+ population have one or more chronic diseases, 50% have two or more, and 24% have problems so severe as to limit their ability to perform one or more activities of daily living (ADL).
- The most fragile and challenging group to care for is the 85+ population; 62% are so disabled that they are no longer able to manage the basic activities of daily living without help. In the coming decades the 85+ population will continue to grow, quadrupling in size to approximately 16 million - including more than a million centenarians - by the year 2040.⁸
- Most older persons have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. The most frequently occurring conditions per 100 elderly in 1995 were: arthritis (49%), hypertension (40%), heart disease (31%), hearing impairments (28%), orthopedic impairments (18%), cataracts (16%) sinusitis (15%) and diabetes (13%).
- An estimated 4 million older Americans suffer from Alzheimer's. For 1998, the combined direct and indirect cost of Alzheimer's were estimated to be more than 100 billion.⁹
- According to the Alzheimer's Association - Greater Phoenix Chapter, about 78,000 people in Arizona suffer from Alzheimer's.
- Alzheimer's is a degenerative disorder of the brain which steadily robs its victims of memory and judgement and cripples their ability to carry out basic functions on their own. After age 60, the likelihood a person will be diagnosed with Alzheimer doubles almost every five years.
- Currently, less than 2% of people aged 60 suffer from Alzheimer's; 3-4% have it by age 65 and

⁶Ibid.

⁷Age Power, p. 112.

⁸Ibid., p. 118.

⁹Alzheimer's Association, "The Facts," and "Statistics/Prevalence,"
<http://www.alz.org/facts/index.htm>.

6-8% by 70. At age 75, 15% have it, and 25-30% are afflicted by age 80; a staggering 47% of people over 85 have the disease.

- Ken Dychtwald, Ph.D, author of *Age Power*, estimates that 14 million boomers and generation Xers will be stricken with Alzheimer's by the middle of the century. With improvements in other areas of medicine, the average duration from diagnosis to death could be extended from 8-10 years to 15-20 years.¹⁰
- In terms of hospital stays, older people accounted for 36% of all stays and 49% of all days of care in hospitals in 1997. The average length of a hospital stay was 6.8 days for older people compared to only 5.5 days for people under 65. The average length of stay for older people has decreased 5.3 days since 1964. Older persons averaged more contacts with doctors in 1997 than did persons under 65 (11.7 contacts vs. 4.9 contacts).
- Approximately 4.2% or 1.43 million older adults lived in nursing homes in 1996. As seniors age, the percentage of older adults residing in nursing homes increases dramatically: 1.1% for persons 65-74 years; 4.2% for persons 75-84 years and 19.8% for persons 85+.
- The large number of 85+ in nursing homes speaks to the increases in the longevity of the chronically ill among the elderly and the need for long-term care. A 65 year old has a 43% chance of entering a nursing home at some point in his or her life.
- Recent studies project that nursing home usage in the 21st Century will boom — by 2040, it is estimated that 5.5 million Americans will live in nursing homes and another 12 million will require ongoing homecare services.¹¹

HEALTH CARE COSTS

- According to the Administration on Aging, older Americans spend 12% of their total expenditures on health, three times the proportion spent by younger consumers. In 1997, health costs incurred on average by older consumer consist of \$1,523 (53%) for insurance, \$637 (22%) for drugs, \$564 for medical services, and \$130 (5%) for medical supplies.
- On average, older consumers are projected to pay \$2,430 or 19% of income, in out-of-pocket expenditures for health care in 1999. It is also expected that 25% of consumers will spend over \$3,000 out-of-pocket for health care.¹²

¹⁰Age Power. P. 119-120.

¹¹E. Hing and B. Bloom, National Center for Health Statistics, Series 13, no. 104, Long-Term Care for the Functionally Dependent Elderly, Vital and Health Statistics (Hyatsville, MD: Public Health Service, 1990).

¹² AARP Public Policy Institute Study, Out-of-Pocket Spending on Health Care by Medicare Beneficiaries Age 65 and Older, 1999 Projections.

- Prescription drugs account for the single largest component with 17% of out-of-pocket expenditures on health care, after premium payments.

ELDER CARE GIVERS

- A national survey conducted by AARP found that 31 of adults or about 60 million Americans are grandparents. Of this amount, 11% of grandparents over 50 are caregivers; 8% report they are providing day care on a regular basis and 3% are raising a grandchild.

ELDERS AND VIOLENCE

New light has been shed on this very hidden crime through the National Elder Abuse Incidence Study which began in 1992.

- Among the 450,000 cases of elder abuse found in 1996, female elders were found to be abused at a higher rate than males, and our oldest elders (80+) were abused at two to three times their proportion of the elderly population. Men were found to be the perpetrators of abuse and neglect 52.2% of the time, and in two thirds of the cases the perpetrators were either adult children or spouses.
- Older adults who are unable to care for themselves are more likely to suffer from domestic abuse. Approximately one-half (47.9%) of the incidences involved persons who were unable to care themselves, 30% were somewhat able to do so, and 23% were able to care for themselves.
- In Maricopa County, the Department of Economic Security Adult Protective Services received a total of 4,489 reports of abuse, neglect, and maltreatment of elder in 1997-1998.
- The Area Agency on Aging, Region One estimates that if one in three women are victims of domestic violence nationwide and there were 229,234 females over 60 in the 1995 census, potentially 76,000 older women in Maricopa County suffer from domestic violence. These numbers may be the tip of the iceberg since it is uncommon for elder victims to report the abuse, as well as to seek shelter services. Only 1.1% of elder victims aged 60+ in 1997 chose to enter one of the 31 residential shelters in Arizona.

OTHER TRENDS

- In Maricopa County, seniors are the fastest growing population utilizing computers.